

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126209

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 DLOS-04 EB-07 SAL-01 COME-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:JETHYDEN

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

ARA:WHLUERS

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R 221225Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126209

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BF, US

SUBJECT:PRIME MINISTER PINDLING'S CALL ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ROGERS

1. SUMMARY: DURING COURTESY CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ROGERS ON MAY 19, GCOB PRIME MINISTER PINDLING EXPRESSED
HOPE FOR GREATER U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF CARIBBEAN PRO-
BLEMS AND ATTITUDES. HE SAID MILITARY FACILITIES
NEGOTIATIONS PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL AFTER AUGUST LOS
SESSION. PINDLING EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH SPINY
LOBSTER SITUATION, WHICH HE SAID HAD "QUIETED" BETTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 126209

THAN EXPECTED. BAHAMIAN AMBASSADOR JOHNSON ASKED ABOUT

STATUS OF IDB LEGISLATION AND WAS ASSURED THAT WE EXPECT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL SHORTLY.

2. U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD CARIBBEAN: PRIME MINISTER OPENED WITH GENERAL REFERENCE TO DIFFICULTIES OF NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES, OBSERVING MAIN TASK OF GCOB IS TO KEEP COUNTRY ON EVEN KEEL. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS SAID WE UNDERSTAND DIFFICULTIES OF NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE BAHAMAS HAS DONE A GOOD JOB. ROGERS WENT ON TO SAY THAT ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN OUR RELATIONS WITH NEW COUNTRIES IS FREQUENT INCIDENCE OF MISUNDERSTANDING, PURE AND SIMPLE. HE NOTED THAT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT

IN A LARGE AND COMPLEX COUNTRY SUCH AS THE U.S. TO INSURE THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS DO NOT GET THE WRONG SIGNALS FROM EVENTS AND PERSONS QUITE OUTSIDE USG CONTROL. IT IS A CONSISTENT PROBLEM FOR U.S. TO PREVENT OR CORRECT SUCH MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

3. PINDLING RESPONDED BY SAYING HE COULD SEE SIGNS OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN SOME CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. HE EXPRESSED HOPE WE WILL RECOGNIZE THAT DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS ARE STRONG IN SEVERAL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, AND THEY ARE ALMOST THE ONLY DEMOCRACIES IN THE HEMISPHERE. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF LOCAL NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS CAUSED UNDUE ALARM IN U.S. PINDLING ALSO NOTED THAT U.S. PRESSURES TO PREVENT THESE COUNTRIES FROM JOINING FORCES WITH THOSE IN OPPOSITION TO U.S. COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND ACTUALLY FORCE MOVEMENT IN DIRECTIONS WE WOULD NOT WANT. ROGERS REPLIED THAT WE UNDERSTAND AND AGREE. WE HAVE STATED BOTH TO MANLEY AND TO BURNHAM THE U.S. VIEW THAT WAY IN WHICH ANY COUNTRY ORGANIZES ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS IS NOT OUR CONCERN. WE TREASURE DEMOCRACY AND RESPECT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND WE WANT THEM TO SUCCEED. WE LEARNED MUCH FROM THE CHILE EXPERIENCE AND WILL NEVER REPEAT IT.

4. MILITARY FACILITIES: PINDLING SAID HE HOPES TO GET TO FACILITIES TALKS LATER THIS YEAR, BUT GCOB IS INCAPABLE OF HANDLING MORE THAN ONE NEGOTIATION AT A TIME. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 126209

THE FACILITIES MIGHT, THEREFORE, HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER AUGUST LOS SESSION, WHICH REQUIRES PERSONAL PARTICIPATION OF FONMIN ADDERLEY. IF IT SHOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE UP NEGOTIATIONS IN LATTER PART OF THIS YEAR, THEN TALKS CAN BEGIN EARLY NEXT YEAR. PINDLING SAID DELAY WAS NOT A PROBLEM FOR GCOB AND WOULD CREATE NO DIFFICULTY. ROGERS REPLIED THAT WE ARE NOT PRESSING TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD NOT MIND WAITING.

5. SPINY LOBSTER: PINDLING REFERRED TO SPINY LOBSTER AND SAID IT IS SURPRISING HOW WELL SITUATION HAS QUIETED DOWN. HE SAID HE BELIEVES THAT STATEMENTS BY COAST GUARD COMMANDER IN MIAMI TONED DOWN ANTI-BAHAMIAN REACTION. ROGERS SAID WE HAD WORKED HARD TO PREVENT ANY VIOLENCE. PINDLING ADDED THAT NEW SITUATION HELPED BAHAMIAN FISHERMEN THIS YEAR. HE SAID THERE IS GREAT OPTIMISM AMONG FISHERMEN, WHO ARE IMPROVING THEIR BOATS AND EQUIPMENT AND HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN BUYING NEW BOATS. PINDLING SAID THAT WITHIN THREE OR FOUR YEARS HE EXPECTS LOBSTER CATCH TO REACH FORMER LEVELS. THIS IS FIRST YEAR THE PRICE WAS HIGHER AT THE END OF SEASON THAN AT BEGINNING.

6. AMBASSADOR JOHNSON ASKED STATUS OF IDB LEGISLATION. HE WAS INFORMED THAT BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS HAVE PASSED BILLS WHICH WOULD PERMIT U.S. APPROVAL FOR BAHAMIAN MEMBERSHIP, BUT HOUSE/SENATE CONFERENCE WAS REQUIRED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON OTHER ISSUES IN SAME BILL. WE EXPECT FINAL APPROVAL SOON. (SENATE HAS PASSED CONFERENCE BILL, AND HOUSE IS EXPECTED TO VOTE APPROVAL TODAY).

7. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS SAT IN ON MEETING AS WELL AS HEAVNER AND THYDEN. LUERS SAT NEXT TO PINDLING TUESDAY NIGHT AT DINNER AND WENT OVER SIMILAR GROUND. ONLY ADDITIONAL SUBJECT TOUCHED ON WAS IRS. PINDLING SAID HE HAD READ THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE AND WAS SATISFIED WITH IT.

8. FOR LONDON: PINDLING SAID THAT WHEN HE IS IN LONDON HE WILL HOPE TO SEE RON SPIERS. ROBINSON

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